

VPP: Weyerhaeuser Longview Achieves STAR

Weyerhaeuser Longview Achieves STAR VPP for Worker Safety & Health Efforts.

Weyerhaeuser Longview Pulp, Paper and Packaging mill received national and state recognition for extraordinary efforts in support of workplace safety and health in a partnership with the Department of Labor and Industries - Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). Weyerhaeuser Longview Pulp, Paper and Packaging became the ninth Washington employer to be recognized as a STAR Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) worksite, and one of 1337 such sites across the nation. To qualify for the elite designation, Weyerhaeuser Longview implemented a 19-point program promoting worker safety and health and submitted a VPP application. Eight Washington Department of Labor and Industries (WISHA) safety and health evaluators surveyed the mill operations for five days, reviewed programs and documents and interviewed more than 91 employees.



Picture 1 (left to right) sitting Frank Busch, Weyerhaeuser Leadership Team acted as Master of Ceremony and Rich Hansen, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Weyerhaeuser addresses the audience.



Picture 2 (left to right) Mike Burckhardt, AWPPW Local 580 President and Jim Anderson, AWPPW Local 633 President address the audience.



Picture 3 Judy Schurke presenting the STAR certificate to Mike Jackson, Senior, Vice President, Cellulose Fiber & White Papers, Weyerhaeuser and Bill Baird, Vice President, Cellulose Fiber & White Papers, Weyerhaeuser and Longview Weyerhaeuser Leadership team - Frank Busch, Tina Cygrymus, Denny Morgan.

The plant's award ceremony for its new VPP STAR status was conducted at noon, Friday, August 19, 2005 in the park near the front gate of the mill. The award ceremony started with a welcome address and opening remarks by Frank Busch, Weyerhaeuser Longview Leadership Team followed by Judy Schurke, Deputy Director, Department of Labor and Industries, Mike Burckhardt, President AWPPW Local 580 and Jim Anderson, President AWPPW Local 633, Bill Baird, Vice President, Cellulose Fiber & White Papers, Rich Hansen, Executive Vice President and Chief Operation Officer, Weyerhaeuser, Mike Jackson, Senior Vice President, Cellulose Fiber & White Papers, all made comments on this monumental achievement. Judy Schurke, Deputy Director, Department of Labor and Industries presented the STAR certificate to Bill Baird and Mike Jackson. Judy Schurke read a letter for Governor Christine Gregoire congratulating Weyerhaeuser Longview on this prestigious accomplishment.



Picture 4 (left to right) Bill Baird, Denny Morgan, Tina Cygrymus, Frank Busch, Mike Burkhardt, Jim Anderson and Judy Schurke with VPP STAR flag.

Commitment and employee involvement required to achieve this level of safety and health excellence. After the VPP STAR award ceremony, Mike Jackson made closing comments and invited employees and guests to a celebration dinner.

The VPP STAR status was conferred for the company's leadership, commitment and extensive employee participation in a continual safety and health improvement program.



Picture 5 Judy Schurke addressing the audience.

More than 512 workers are employed on site, producing kraft pulp and bleached board. Potential hazards at these facilities include the following: machinery with moving parts, electrical, thermal, energy sources, material handling equipment, ergonomic, walking/working surfaces, confined space, high noise levels, fall exposures and chemicals. Despite the hazards, the company's three-year injury rate is 20 percent below the industry three year average, and their lost or restricted workday incident rate is 7 percent below the industry standard.

For more information, contact Sherry Mason, Safety Manager, Weyerhaeuser Longview, (360) 636-7069. For more information about WISHA's Voluntary Protection Program, in which WISHA and Washington companies work together to improve safety and health programs, call WISHA, [Kenneth Werenko](#), Safety and Health VPP Specialist, (360) 902-5515.



Picture 6 - VPP STAR flag.



Picture 6 - Group picture of some of the key people, past and present who worked for the site to achieve VPP STAR. (Left to right front row kneeling: Tom Brokerson, Bill Hadley, John Walkush, Bill Baird, Tina Cygrymus, Don Works)

(left to right standing: Rich Hansen, Don Campbell, John Geppert, Judy Schurke, Gail Owens, Ken Werenko, Lynda Stoneberg, Mike Burckhardt, Jim Chonzena, Lorie Warren, Mike Jackson, Mel James, Kathy Herlocker, Frank Busch, Becky, Denny Morgan and Nancy Martin)



Picture 7 Positive message